

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

UNRECORDED SPECIMENS OF TWO RARE HAWAIIAN
BIRDS.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

Lately while arranging the skins of *Acrulocercus nobilis* in the Museum of Comparative Zoology I discovered among them a fine example of the long ago extinct *Acrulocercus apicalis* (Gould) of Oahu Island.

This specimen came to the museum in exchange from Brown University and had formerly belonged to John Cassin. It bears a label in Cassin's hand with the inscription, "Sandwich Isld. J. K. Townsend male," and was without doubt collected by Townsend during his visit to Oahu in 1835. The skin, No. 17,598, Museum of Comparative Zoology, is that of a fine adult male and although made seventy-five years ago is in perfect preservation, except that its feet and legs have, at some time, been somewhat eaten by insects.

Wilson and Evans in their *Aves Hawaiiensis*, 1890-1899 (p. "103"—the work is not paged) mention five specimens, all that were known to them, of *A. apicalis*—three in the British Museum, one of which went by exchange to Rothschild's Tring Museum, and a pair collected by Deppe which are in Vienna.

Rothschild, *Extinct Birds* 1907, p. 27, enumerates the same five specimens, but says that Deppe's skins are in Berlin.

Ours makes the sixth known example of *A. apicalis*, which is believed to have been confined to Oahu and which has not been seen alive by a naturalist since 1837.

It is the only one in America, Dr. Chas. W. Richmond informing me that the United States National Museum does not possess any, and Mr. Witmer Stone says that there is none in

the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, although that institution had most of Cassin's Collection of birds.

In the Museum of Comparative Zoology there is also a fine pair of *Ciridops anna* (Dole), one of the very rarest of Hawaiian birds and certainly one of the most beautiful.

The exact origin of these skins, of excellent make and in perfect preservation, I have been unable to learn. They came to the museum with a few other Hawaiian birds—six skins of *Acrulocercus nobilis* and several petrels and terns—and were catalogued by Dr. J. A. Allen in 1870; names for none but the Moheo being written on the labels or in the register by that naturalist.

Ciridops anna was described by Judge Dole in 1879 and is supposed to be, or perhaps better to have been, confined to the island of Hawaii. It was, until I unearthed our two skins, known by three male specimens only, one now in the Bishop Museum and two in Rothschild's Museum at Tring. The female and young male were unknown.

Our male, No. 10,995, is in full plumage and very closely matches the exquisite plate in Wilson and Evans, *Aves Hawaiiensis*.

Our other specimen, No. 10,987, I take to be an adult female. Though a little smaller, it is exactly similar in proportions to the male, but is wholly different in color. It may be described as follows—

Forehead clothed in stiffened, pointed, semi-erect feathers as in the adult male. Top of head, nape, and sides of head cinnamon washed with dull olive-yellow on forehead and with the lores and a narrow frontal band more dusky; cheeks with paler shaft-stripes to the feathers; lower back grayish cinnamon, gradually passing into the purer color of the head; rump and upper tail coverts olive-yellow; tail dusky, fringed with olive-yellow; primaries blackish, narrowly edged with dark olive-yellow; secondaries more broadly edged with the same, the innermost nearly wholly dark olive-yellow; throat dull cinnamon, the feathers with paler shaft stripes, slightly washed with yellow-olive in lower middle; chest and breast dingy-smoke-gray, somewhat washed with olive, gradually passing into dark olive-yellow on belly; under wing coverts, axillars, under tail coverts and a small patch in lower middle belly

dilute rufous-cinnamon. The general pattern thus resembles that of the adult male, though the colors themselves are very different. Our two skins afford the following measurements (in mm.):

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sex.</i>	<i>Wing.</i>	<i>Tail.</i>	<i>Tarsus.</i>	<i>Culmen.</i>
10995	(♂ ad.)	80	44	22	11
10987	(♀ ad.)	73.5	41	21	10